

Serve Passionately. Live Humbly. Love Endlessly

Text: John 13:1-15

Date: 10-25-20 @ 10:30 am

Jesus knew from where He had come, why He was on the earth, how greatly He loved His people, and the magnitude of His opposition. This is repeated throughout His ministry in the gospels. John's words here are a concise summary of the mission of the Lord Jesus on this earth. The enemy's hatred is about to reach its climax. Yet, Jesus remains focused on the Father's will, the people whom He is teaching, and the mission for which He has come to the earth.

As we spend time in communion today, I want to draw our attention to the servant work of the Master by asking a few questions: Am I willing to serve like Jesus? Do I look at others and their needs with a heart to serve? Within the community here at Liberty, are there practical ways to wash others' feet? How could I serve others? Do I have talents and gifts that would be of help to others and can I use them in order to help grow the servant-minded community that would mimic Jesus Christ?

Verse 12: Jesus proceeded to wash all of their feet. Then He placed His outer garment back on. The picture is clear: His work of serving was over. He would be exalted through what was to soon come. The striking image is that Christ had done the most menial tasks, and He was about to abase Himself even more on the cross to demonstrate, through His humility, condescension, and love, what true servanthood looked like.

As he put on his coat and took His place at the table, the disciples must have wondered what had just happened. In those few minutes of time, Jesus had summarized His earthly ministry of love and service by caring for His disciples in such a tender, humble way.

Then Jesus tells them if I as your Master and Lord have done this, you ought to also do it. Do what?

1. Serve others!

We are so proud in the church. We walk around thinking we are too good to get down and dirty in service to others. Where is the love to serve others? Do you look for opportunities to serve others beyond the normal scope of your life?

Many people desire to serve until there is a cost. For Jesus, it didn't matter. Jesus shows us the true essence of serving through serving while paying the cost. Christ did more than count the cost. He was the cost, and He paid the cost willingly. And the cost was steep. This was not a cheap cross, which is what many today think the price of living for Christ should be.

Christ lived for others, and He submitted Himself willingly. The person who has a submissive mind to serve does not avoid sacrifice – Wiersbe. We must live to the glory of God, and if it means sacrificing to serve others, then we must be willing to follow. In Christ, we have the greatest example for our own lives.

2. Humility!

*Nothing in my hands I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling; Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace: Foul, I to the fountain fly, Wash me, Savior, or I die.*

God desires to give us grace. But He only gives to those who have open empty hands. If we humbly seek the grace of God, He will shower us with it. The greatest resource that we could daily receive is the grace of God in our lives. Those willing to acknowledge their need, humbly bow to the Father, abandon selfish ambition, will have the great provision of God's amazing grace showered abundantly upon them!

In this world we have the opportunity live differently. We must reduce our pride, come to the place where we are living in a constant state of abject humility and shine for Christ. Practically, we do that in our homes first. Then here in this community. Then at work and in public. Do people know you for your pride or humility?

3. Love others!

We must self-sacrificially love others. Love God first. Love the brethren. Love your neighbors inside your house and out. Love your enemies. Give. Do it today!